

10/662,196

P-5540-C1

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application and entry of the amendment are respectfully requested. Claims 1 to 18 and 20 to 27 are currently pending, and claims 20 to 27 have been canceled. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claims in a continuation or divisional application.

The Final Office Action mailed September 20, 2004 addressed claims 1 to 18 and 20 to 27. Claims 20 to 27 were objected to, and claims 1 to 18 were allowed.

The declaration was objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.63 as being an improper continuation application. The Examiner stated that the matter in claim 27 was not presented in the prior application, therefore the declaration must be changed to reflect the additionally recited matter and state that this application is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 09/760,215. Additionally, the specification was objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The Examiner stated that Applicant has improperly stated that this application is a continuation of prior Application No. 09/760,215, but this application adds additional disclosure (claim 27), therefore it must be changed to a continuation-in-part instead of a continuation.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the clarification of the Office Action and the remarks. Claims 20 to 27 have been canceled by this Amendment.

Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to the declaration and specification have been overcome. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objections to the declaration and specification be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney if it is deemed that a telephone conversation will hasten prosecution of the application.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of each of the presently objected claims, claims 20 to 27. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1 to 18, the claims currently pending.

Respectfully submitted,

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